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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present invention uses sensor fusion to make a qualitative determination of the environment being sensed. Of course it also enables direct sensor readings. But, by making qualitative determinations a low power narrow bandwidth response can be sent from the remote location of the sensor suite to a command post. This is important in some utilization such as in tactical military conditions.

The Powers reference just sends actual sensor readings. The readings have been logged, that is, have been stored in a logger, for later transmission. There is no qualitative analysis, and there is no need for nor suggestion for any qualitative analysis nor is there any interest in Powers for a narrow bandwidth signal.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-6 and 10 under section 112. Claim 1 lacked antecedent for "the qualitative determination". This has been corrected by deletion of "signal" on line 8. Claim 3 lacked structure "for computing status change indications". This has been fixed by adding the word "and" so that it relates back to the prior recitation of a "means". In claim 10 "said fusion device" had no antecedent. This has been fixed by adding the word "sensor" before "fusion".

Claims 3-6 and 9 were rejected as being anticipated by Powers. These rejections are traversed. Claim 3 has been amended to define the sensors as "smart" sensors. The sensors described in Powers are "dumb" sensors. Therefore claim 3 is distinguishable from Powers as is claim 4 which depends from claim 3.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 which is not rejected under section 102 and therefore it is assumed that their rejection under section 102 is a mistake.

Claim 9 was rejected under section 102 over Powers. This rejection is also traversed. Claim 9 as amended has sensor fusion module that determines qualitative

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status indications and sends the qualitative status indications via a narrow bandwidth signal. Powers only sends actual logged data. No qualitative computation is done. He has no need for nor interest in making any qualitative determination in the field because he does no need to solve the problems presented and solved in the present invention.

Claim 1, 2, 7, 8 and 10 were rejected under section 103. These rejections are traversed. Both claims 1 and 10 as amended recite the use of sensors that sense a condition of the ambient environment. Powers senses system operative conditions in a pipeline, which are not ambient environmental conditions. Also claims 1 and 10 use a sensor fusion device operating through an algorithm to make a qualitative determination. This relieves the system of the necessity of sending a lot of data to the command post so that a narrow bandwidth signal can be used. Powers does not disclose any of these features nor are they suggested or motivated by powers because the problems presented and solved by the present invention are irrelevant to Powers.

With the amendments made and the foregoing comments and the inclusion of formal drawings it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted



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